

Application No. 10/562,348
Atty. Doc. No. 2003P07111WOUS

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Claims:

1.-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A telecommunications terminal having a user interaction function adapted to establish telecommunications connections, comprising:

a local-area transceiver adapted for wireless traffic between the telecommunications terminal and a plurality of external gateways, each external gateway providing access to a communications network;

a display device adapted for ~~simultaneously~~ displaying information about a plurality of external gateways within range of the local-area transceiver;

a selection unit adapted to select one of the plurality of external gateways displayed by the display device in order to communicate with the respective communications network via the selected gateway; and

wherein absence of displayed information about a particular one of the external gateways on the display device indicates that said particular one of the external gateways is not within range of the telecommunications terminal.

14. (previously presented) The telecommunications terminal according to claim 13, wherein the local-area transceiver is adapted according to a Bluetooth standard having loadware adapted for connecting to the gateway.

15. (previously presented) The telecommunications terminal according to claim 13, wherein the local-area transceiver is adapted according to a wireless LAN having loadware adapted for connecting to the gateway.

16. (previously presented) The telecommunications terminal according to claim 13, further comprising a user-data memory that stores connection-data records, each record having a predetermined connection that can be established between one of the external gateways and the telecommunications terminal, wherein information about external gateways within range of the local-area transceiver defined by at least one of the stored data records is displayed for selection.

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17. (previously presented) The telecommunications terminal according to claim 16, further comprising an authentication-data input for inputting an authentication data of a user, the data authentication-data interfacing with the local-area transceiver for transmitting the authentication data to the gateway,

wherein the external gateway determines from the authentication data if the terminal is authorized to establish the connection via the gateway, and

wherein information about important ones of the external gateways within range of the local-area transceiver that have authorized the terminal to establish the connection is displayed for selection.

18. (previously presented) The telecommunications terminal according to claim 17, further comprising a processor and memory to provide PDA functionality that is independent of the telecommunications functions.

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19. (previously presented) A telecommunications assembly, comprising:
a telecommunications terminal having a user interaction function adapted to establish a plurality of telecommunications connections, comprising:
a signaling mechanism adapted for signaling incoming calls to the selected connections;
an input device adapted for inputting outgoing messages and a telecommunications connections data;
a display device adapted for displaying incoming messages and information on current availability of each of the plurality of telecommunications connections;
a local-area transceiver adapted for wireless traffic between the telecommunications terminal and an external gateway or another telecommunications terminal, including traffic for establishing the telecommunications connections;
an internal gateway for connecting to a mobile radio communications network and for interfacing to the selection mechanism, the signaling mechanism, the input device, and the output device, wherein the telecommunications terminal is configured as a mobile-radio-communications terminal; and
an authentication-data input mechanism allowing an authentication-data input, the authentication-data input mechanism interfacing with the local-area transceiver for transmitting the authentication data; and
a plurality of external gateways, each comprising:
a local-area transceiver adapted to receive transmission from the telecommunications terminal including the authentication-data input; and
an access control mechanism adapted to block traffic to an unauthorized telecommunications terminal based on the authentication-data input and to release traffic to an authorized telecommunications terminal based on the authentication-data input;
wherein each local-area transceiver for a plurality of the telecommunication terminals are configured for directly exchanging voice traffic with each other without the intermediate connection of an external network; and
wherein absence of displayed information on the display device of the telecommunications terminal about a particular external gateway or a particular other telecommunications terminal indicates that said particular external gateway or particular other telecommunications terminal is not within range of the telecommunications terminal.

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20. (previously presented) The telecommunications assembly according to claim 19, wherein the external gateway excludes a signaling mechanism, an input device, and a display device.

21. (previously presented) The telecommunications assembly according to claim 19, wherein the local-area transceiver includes a threshold discriminator for detecting an entry into the radio transmission range of an telecommunications terminal, the threshold discriminator is operatively connected to a communications-start control device for initiating a communications start procedure with the telecommunications terminal after entering into the radio transmission range.

22-23. (canceled)

24. (previously presented) The telecommunications terminal according to claim 17, wherein the authentication data includes information of a telecommunication terminal authorized to establish the connection to the wireless network via the terminal.

25. (previously presented) The telecommunications terminal according to claim 13, wherein the display of the plurality of external gateways within range of the local-area transceiver includes a cost of using the respective gateway to establish the telecommunication connection.

26. (previously presented) The telecommunications terminal according to claim 13, further comprises an internal gateway for connecting to a mobile radio communications network.

27. (canceled)

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28. (previously presented) A telecommunications terminal having a user interaction function adapted to establish a plurality of telecommunications connections, comprising:

a local-area transceiver adapted for wireless traffic between the telecommunications terminal and a plurality of external gateways, each external gateway providing access to a communications network;

a display device adapted for displaying current availability information about a plurality of external gateways within range of the local-area transceiver;

a selection unit adapted to select one of the plurality of external gateways displayed by the display device in order to establish a telecommunication connection to the respective communications network via the selected gateway;

an internal gateway for connecting to a mobile radio communications network;

a user-data memory that stores connection-data records of the plurality of predetermined connections which can be established with the external gateways and an internal gateway; and

wherein absence of displayed current availability information about a particular one of the gateways indicates that said particular one of the gateways is not within a communications range of the telecommunications terminal.

29. (previously presented) The telecommunications terminal according to claim 13, wherein the user interface comprises an input device.

30. (previously presented) The telecommunications terminal according to claim 13, wherein the user interface comprises a display device.

31. (previously presented) The telecommunications terminal according to claim 13, wherein the local-area transceiver directly exchanges voice traffic with a local area transceiver of a similar telecommunications terminal without the intermediate connection of an external network.

32-33. (canceled)